



INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SEMINAR (GRADUATE FOCUSED)

**Overseas Program:
January 2 – 11, 2015**

Pre-Departure Meetings (NIU Campus): November 29, 2014

Post-Program Meeting (NIU Campus): Date TBA

Paris, France
London, United Kingdom

PROGRAM DATES: In addition to the overseas portion of the program from January 2 – 11, participants will officially begin the seminar in DeKalb, Illinois on the NIU campus on Saturday, November 29, 2014. The overseas component of the program will begin with departure from the U.S. on Friday, January 2 and will end in London on Sunday, January 11, 2015.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR: The overall purpose of this seminar is to provide MBA students with an opportunity to be exposed to the international business environment and practices outside the United States. In addition, participants will have a chance to develop insight into the cultural, social, and political environments of each country to be visited. Participation in an International Business Seminar is a unique way for individuals who are interested in pursuing a career in international business, or a related field, to acquire a firsthand view of international business practices, and experience the excitement of traveling outside the United States.

SEMINAR COORDINATION: This program is offered in cooperation with International Business Seminars in Scottsdale, Arizona. Seminar coordination and logistics are provided by Professor Daniel Brenenstuhl, director of International Business Seminars. Students who wish to receive academic credit for their participation in a seminar should enroll for the program through Northern Illinois University.

NIU SEMINAR COORDINATOR: Chih-Chen Lee, professor of Accountancy in the Northern Illinois University's College of Business will be responsible for advising students enrolled for this seminar through NIU, along with the oversight of their course requirements. Faculty leading the seminar will be from a variety of U.S. colleges and universities.



SEMINAR AUDIENCE: This seminar is available to graduate level students in good standing. Non-NIU graduate level students will be required to participate in a pre-admission interview with Professor Lee. The pre-departure meeting to be held on November 30 and the post program meeting to be held on a date to be determined and are required of all participants. Space is limited in the seminar and qualified applicants will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis.

SEMINAR SESSIONS: The seminar visits will average about two to three hours each day. The type of presentation provided by our overseas hosts will vary from company to company;



however, almost all presentations will include input by management personnel. The sessions may include lectures, panel discussions, plant tours, or some combination of all these elements. Past experience has shown that students learn a great deal from the question/answer session which is a part of each visit; thus, students' questions are highly encouraged. In addition, there are two meetings with faculty that average two hours each, and organized tours as well as faculty-directed instruction during coach travel times between destinations.

Seminars are normally held in the mornings and/or the afternoons. In some instances, a company will have a session that lasts the entire day; however, as mentioned above, most will run from two to four hours. Some companies provide a lunch, usually with management personnel in attendance. Seminars will usually be held during weekdays (Monday through Friday); however, there normally will be some free time during these days to allow participants access to shopping facilities, banks, and other facilities of interest that are not normally open on Saturdays and Sundays. Weekends, on the whole, are free; however, some weekend time may be reserved for travel to new destinations.

ACADEMIC CREDIT: For satisfactory participation in the seminar, participants will be enrolled for the spring 2015 semester and will receive *three* semester hours of graduate credit in **one** of the following NIU courses. The courses taken while participating on a seminar **cannot** be audited.

GRADUATE CREDIT:	
MKTG 601: International Study in Marketing	3 semester hours
Description: Short-term study-abroad experience to study cultural differences, problems, issues, trends, and practices in marketing within the international environment. Includes visits to foreign organizations, presentations by marketing managers and executives, and discussions with foreign and domestic international faculty. Supervised by a faculty member. Prerequisites and Notes: MKTG 505 or consent of department.	
OR	
IDSP 501: Study Abroad Programs	3 semester hours
Description: Course work undertaken as part of an approved university study abroad program. May be counted toward the satisfaction of general education requirements if approved as the equivalent of an authorized general education course.	

IDSP 501: Non-NIU students and students who have already received credit in MKTG 601 must enroll in IDSP 501.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Participants must attend an orientation meeting prior to the seminar and a debriefing meeting after the seminar. Both of these meetings are on the DeKalb NIU Campus with Professor Lee. Participants must also attend all scheduled seminar activities to include: group meetings, city tours, and business visits. Finally, participants must also prepare a seminar paper and a book analysis.

The seminar paper consists of three parts: a summary (two - three, double-spaced, typewritten pages) for each business visit. Each summary should stress the academic concepts discussed by the seminar faculty during the orientation meeting on the first day of the seminar. The second part is a summary (four - six pages) of your cultural experiences in each city. The third part is an in-depth analysis of one of the businesses visited.

For the in-depth analysis, each participant will be assigned to a team of four - six students prior to the seminar. Each team will be assigned one of the organizations that will be visited during the seminar. Prior to visiting the organization, the assigned team will give an oral presentation that will provide an introduction and overview of the organization to the other participants. During the visit, team members will be introduced to the organization's presenters, and the team members will be expected to contribute more to the question and answer session during the presentation. Finally, the team members or representatives of the team will thank the presenters and give them gifts from the IBS group.

Each member of the team will be expected to research the assigned organization prior to the beginning of the seminar. Each team will be expected to meet on their own after the seminar starts to plan their introductory presentation to the other seminar participants, to develop questions that will be asked during the question and answer session, and to determine which team members will make concluding remarks and present the gifts to the organization's presenters.

The third part of the seminar paper is a summary (8 - 10 pages) of the in-depth analysis of the assigned firm. This part is not a team report, but it should cover the main points learned through each team member's research of the organization and the presentation given by the organization.

The seminar faculty will discuss the requirements of the seminar paper during the orientation meeting on the first day of the seminar. Seminar faculty will also discuss how teams should make the introductory presentation, the kinds of questions to ask during the seminar, and how to make concluding remarks and present gifts.

The seminar paper must be turned into Professor Lee and the IBS Seminar Faculty by **March 15, 2015**. Late submission of this paper can result in your grade being lowered.

Professor Lee also requires graduate students to read a recent book about the European Union or some aspect related to it and write an 8 - 10 page analysis of the book. The book analysis must be submitted no later than March 15, 2015 and can be part of the seminar paper.

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH/STUDY PROJECT (Optional): Individuals who wish to earn three *additional* hours of graduate credit may do so by completing an independent research/study project under the direction of Professor Lee, NIU Seminar Coordinator. The topic to be

researched/studied must (1) be related to a topic or subject introduced during the seminar, (2) be approved in advance by Professor Lee as part of a written proposal, (3) be of such a nature that the topic can be researched and data gathered while the seminar group is overseas, and (4) be completed and submitted for final evaluation to Professor Lee no later than **April 15, 2015**.

Individuals completing the project will receive three semester hours of graduate credit in the following NIU course:

GRADUATE CREDIT:	
MKTG 604: Independent Study in Marketing	3 semester hours
<p>Description: Available to graduate students of demonstrated capability for intensive independent study in marketing. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 semester hours when the topic varies. Not available for S/U grading.</p> <p>Prerequisites and Notes: MKTG 505 and consent of department.</p>	

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: The seminar is open to graduate students who meet the NIU general admission requirements, and who are interested in international business management and global business. Currently enrolled students must meet NIU Graduate School and College of Business GPA requirements. Students must be in good academic standing at the time of application. Students on academic probation are not eligible for participation. **Applicants must participate in the *entire* seminar and satisfy NIU graduate admission and course requirements. Except in cases of extreme emergency, students may not arrive after or depart before the dates indicated for the seminar.**

Students cannot have any encumbrances against their NIU records. Any encumbrances placed on a student's records by NIU (e.g., the Graduate School, Undergraduate Admissions, Bursar's Office, Accounts Receivable, Registration and Records, Health Services, Parking Services, etc.) must be cleared before a student is granted admission to a study abroad program.

Students who desire to obtain graduate credit must either be admitted to a graduate program within the NIU Graduate School or be admitted to the status of a "student-at-large" (SAL) within NIU's Graduate School. For students to be admitted to the seminar for graduate credit, the applicant's official transcript must be on file in the NIU SAO. Students who are currently enrolled at NIU, or who have previously enrolled at NIU, do not need to request an official transcript. However, students who will participate in the seminar in order to earn academic credit as an SAL (students who have not currently enrolled nor previously enrolled at NIU) must provide a transcript from the baccalaureate institution and from any institution at which graduate credit has been earned. This document must be provided to the SAO before a student can be admitted as an SAL to the seminar. (Student issued transcripts and photocopies are not acceptable.)

Individuals do not, however, have to be currently enrolled in a college or university. Quite often the participants are practicing professionals or pursuing an advanced degree in a business-related

area. Questions relating to the admission requirements should be directed to the NIU Study Abroad Office (SAO).

APPLICATION: Click [International Business Seminar Winter Break Grad-Focused](https://niu.studioabroad.com) or visit the NIU Study Abroad Office website at <https://niu.studioabroad.com> (and search for International Business Seminars Winter Break #1) to begin the online application process for this program. The online process provides guidance on requesting information, advising, or applying for the program. Please note that at the time of application, applicants will be expected to submit a signature verification form and copy of their ID to the Study Abroad Office. More detailed instructions can be found on the <https://niu.studioabroad.com> website or by contacting the Study Abroad Office at (815) 753-0700 or niuabroad@niu.edu.

\$200 APPLICATION FEE/DEPOSIT: A \$200 application fee/deposit is required of all applicants. The \$200 is broken down into \$100 for the non-refundable application fee and \$100 for a program deposit. Both the application fee and the deposit will be applied to the total balance of the program cost. The \$100 deposit is refundable only if the participant withdraws prior to the withdrawal deadline indicated on the program materials or for medical reasons verified by a physician if the withdrawal takes place after the withdrawal deadline.

The \$200 application fee/deposit will be charged to NIU students' NIU Bursar's account. (Checks and money orders cannot be accepted from NIU students.) Non-NIU students must submit a check or money order in the amount of \$200. More detailed instructions regarding the application fee/deposit can be found on the seminar application website.

IMPORTANT – All applications will be categorized as “Pending – No Deposit” until the \$200 application fee/deposit has been received (or, in the case of non-NIU students, once a check has been received). The Study Abroad Office will not consider or process applications without the \$200 application fee/deposit. In order to reserve your place in the program you must submit the \$200 deposit within 14 days of application. After 14 days applications without a deposit will be inactivated.

FINAL DATE FOR APPLYING FOR ADMISSION TO THE SEMINAR: November 14, 2014.

ORIENTATION INFORMATION: *Orientation Handbooks* will be distributed by both NIU's Study Abroad Office and International Business Seminars in Scottsdale, Arizona.

TRANSATLANTIC TRANSPORTATION: Round-trip transportation on regularly scheduled airlines between selected gateway cities is provided as part of the seminar cost. Participants may travel overseas before the seminar or after completion of the seminar; but must travel one way with the group to qualify for the group airfare. Traveling before or after the seminar may change the price of the airfare package, thus flight schedules must be decided before the air ticket is issued.

It should be noted that the price of the seminar is subject to change if there is an increase in the airfare. After final payment of the seminar cost to NIU has been made, the seminar cost is

guaranteed even if there is an increase in the airfare if no changes in travel plans are requested by the applicant.

If an applicant makes a request, or requests, for changes in air transportation there will be a fee levied for each requested change in travel arrangements.

Please be aware that IBS has a 60 day cancellation policy as contractual commitments to hotels, transportation and ground services must be paid considerably in advance. If cancellation notice is received less than sixty (60) days before the Seminar departure, no refund will be made of any monies received. NIU also has a program cancellation policy that participants should be aware of before canceling. Please also be aware that IBS and NIU cancellations policies and penalties are separate from any airline penalties participants may incur should they withdraw from the seminar after their air ticket has been purchased. **Most air tickets are nonrefundable but can be changed for a fee at the airline's discretion.**

LAND TRANSPORTATION: Students will normally be met on their arrival in the first city and transported from the airport to the hotel. Participants arriving earlier than day #2 or later than day #2 must make their own way to the hotel.



Some seminar visits are within walking distance from the hotels or are easily accessible by public transportation. Students will be provided with subway, train, or bus tickets when they are needed to reach the formal seminar sessions. For some other seminar visits, private buses will be used.

All transportation will be provided between seminar cities and may include private buses, trains, and/or cruise ships. It will be each student's responsibility, however, to provide their own transportation and pay all expenses relating to informal activities in which they choose to participate during free time, including going out to restaurants, lounges, discos, museums, theatres, etc.



HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS AND MEALS: Students generally stay in accommodations similar to ones in which the average business traveler stays. The accommodations are classified as first class or superior tourist class. In most cities, the hotels are centrally located near entertainment centers, eating establishments, shopping centers, laundry facilities, public transportation, banks and post office facilities.

Participants will normally share a double room with twin beds and private bath and toilet facilities. Room assignments are rotated so that participants will get better acquainted with other members of the seminar. The faculty seminar coordinator will make the room assignments in each new city. Continental breakfasts, which normally consist of a roll, butter, jam, coffee/tea, will be provided by all hotels, however, the serving time for breakfast may vary from country to country. Students are responsible for all room charges including telephone, food, dry cleaning, etc. These charges must be paid at check-out.

PASSPORT: All participants must have a passport in order to participate in this seminar.
Important Note: U.S. passports must be valid SIX months beyond the intended stay overseas.
Individuals who do not currently possess a valid passport should apply for one immediately.
Information on acquiring a passport is available at the U.S. State Department's Website:
<http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/passports.html>.

VISAS: U.S. Passport holders do not need special visas for this seminar. Non-U.S. passport holders may need special visas for travel in Europe **and are responsible for obtaining all necessary visas.**

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT IDENTITY CARD: The International Student Identity Card is optional and can be purchased through the NIU Study Abroad Office. The International Student Identity Card also includes a limited health and accident insurance policy which is only valid outside the U.S. Students will have to pay bills at the time of treatment and will be reimbursed later.



PASSPORT AND ISIC PHOTOS: You may have your passport and/or ISIC photo(s) taken in the NIU Study Abroad Office. Photos are \$3.00 for the first photo and \$2.00 for each photo after that. After the first two photos, photos must be purchased in multiples of two. Photos are usually developed while you wait. Study Abroad Office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (closed over the lunch hour) and 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.



NIU MAJOR MEDICAL INSURANCE: NIU Student health insurance is required for participation in an NIU study abroad program. Participants not currently enrolled in the NIU Major Medical Insurance Plan will be enrolled by the Study Abroad Office. The NIU Major Medical Insurance Plan has a \$250 deductible clause. Students requiring medical attention will be expected to pay any related costs and then file a claim with the NIU Student Insurance Office after returning to the States. Receipts showing payment for all medical expenses are required for reimbursement.

NIU SEMINAR COST: The seminar cost covers the following:

- 1) Hotel accommodations.
- 2) Daily Continental breakfast.
- 3) Surface transportation as described in this seminar announcement.
- 4) Sightseeing and excursions as outlined in this seminar description.
- 5) Seminar visits to businesses/industries.
- 6) NIU tuition for three or six semester hours of graduate credit.
- 7) NIU major medical insurance.
- 8) Airfare

SEMINAR COST: \$6,030 * Price only guaranteed until November 15, 2014 because airfare may change

All prices quoted are subject to change. The information contained in the program documents and forms is presented in good faith and is believed to be correct as of the date presented. Northern Illinois University reserves the right to amend, modify, revise, or delete any information appearing in these documents, including but not limited to the cost of the program.

Non-NIU students should consult with their home institutions regarding additional costs that may apply to study abroad. Non-NIU students are responsible for any study abroad charges imposed by their home institution.

ADDITIONAL COSTS TO PARTICIPANTS: Several costs are not included in the program cost that is cited above. Other expenses that will be incurred by the participants include:

- Cost of acquiring a passport (approximately \$135, including passport photos)
- Visa fees (if applicable)
- Most lunches and dinners
- Entrance fees for free-time pursuits
- Purchases of a personal nature

The amount of spending money recommended by past participants ranges from \$50-\$150 per day, depending on an individual's spending habits.

FINANCIAL AID: As a participant in a study abroad program through NIU, you may be eligible for: Pell Grant, SEOG, Perkins Loan, PLUS Loan, Subsidized or unsubsidized Stafford Loan, or your privately awarded scholarship with consent of awarding organization. Tuition waivers do not apply. Please contact Pamela Rosenberg, International Programs Business Manager, at (815) 753-9530, prosenberg@niu.edu for more information.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SEMINAR: Applicants withdrawing from the program less than sixty (60) days before the seminar departure will not be refunded the \$100 NIU program deposit and will also be held accountable for any funds obligated to by IBS to overseas vendors and agents on the applicant's behalf. This provision is in effect even if the applicant has not submitted the \$100 deposit or additional payments, and if the applicant is applying for financial aid.

If the applicant must withdraw from the seminar less than sixty (60) days before the seminar departure date for medical reasons, funds obligated on their behalf to overseas vendors can only be refunded if:

- 1) The request is submitted to the Study Abroad Office in writing and accompanied by a signed statement stating that travel is not advised from a physician on the physician's letterhead; and
- 2) NIU is able to obtain refunds from overseas vendors and agents.

CANCELLATION OF THE SEMINAR: The Study Abroad Office and International Business Seminars reserve the right to cancel this seminar if the minimum required enrollment is not

attained. If, prior to the commencement of the seminar, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for any of the countries to be visited, all applicants will be notified promptly of the warning and the possibility of cancellation of the seminar. If, during the course of the seminar, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for the country the group is currently in, students will be promptly notified of the warning and the advisability of canceling the seminar.

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SEMINAR IN EUROPE – GRADUATE FOCUSED**January 2 - 11, 2015****Paris, France****London, United Kingdom**

DAY/DATE	ACTIVITY	LODGING
Saturday, November 29	On-Campus Orientation Meeting for undergraduate and graduate level students	
Friday, January 2	Depart USA	Airplane
Saturday, January 3	Arrive Paris Transfer to Hotel Meet your colleagues event! Short Metro Orientation Session	Paris
Sunday, January 4	Overview and in depth orientation program City Tour of Paris	Paris
Monday, January 5	Schneider Electric 3M France	Paris
Tuesday, January 6	Hard Rock Café Ernst and Young	Paris
Wednesday, January 7	Depart Paris for London by Eurostar Train Arrive London Independent lunch and City Tour of London Transfer to Hotel Welcome to London dinner	Paris
Thursday, January 8	Lockheed Martin Factory	London
Friday, January 9	Wimbledon Tennis Championships/Museum Lloyd's of London Insurance Market (split tours) In-depth Wrap-up Discussion Session	London
Saturday, January 10	Free day to enjoy London	London
Sunday, January 11	Return to USA	
Date TBD	Post-program meeting on NIU Campus	

Itinerary subject to change.

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS
SEMINARS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO ALTER OR CANCEL ANY OR
ALL OF THE SEMINARS AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY!**